

**CONCURRING STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER LISA POLAK EDGAR**

***In the Matter of High-Cost Universal Service Support, WC Docket No. 05-337; Federal-State Joint  
Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 96-45***

I support the Recommended Decision and the accompanying Public Notice.

Rapid growth in the Universal Service High-Cost Fund is placing unprecedented financial pressure on consumers of telecommunications services and the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service today takes a necessary step to address that unplanned and exceptional growth.

The cap detailed in today's Recommended Decision is an interim step, meant to create a pause in fund growth while a more equitable and comprehensive distribution mechanism can be crafted. The current support mechanisms must be reformed to reduce excessive support to multiple providers and better target financial support as envisioned by the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Funding redundant providers is particularly troubling for consumers in net-contributor states, who shoulder the burden of undue growth in the high-cost fund. Therefore, I share my colleagues urgency in addressing a comprehensive reform of the high-cost distribution mechanism that adheres to the goals of universal service.